Washington All-Payer Claims Database 2019 Accomplishments

Office of Financial Management
January 2020

This report provides a summary of the Washington All-Payer Claims Database (WA-APCD) operations and accomplishments through December 2019. Effective January 1, 2020, oversight of the WA-APCD moved to the Washington State Health Care Authority.
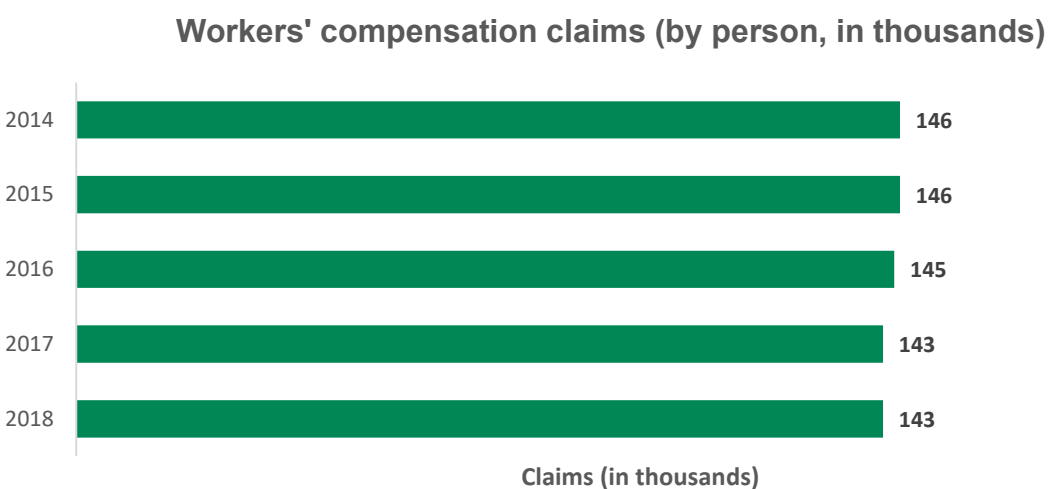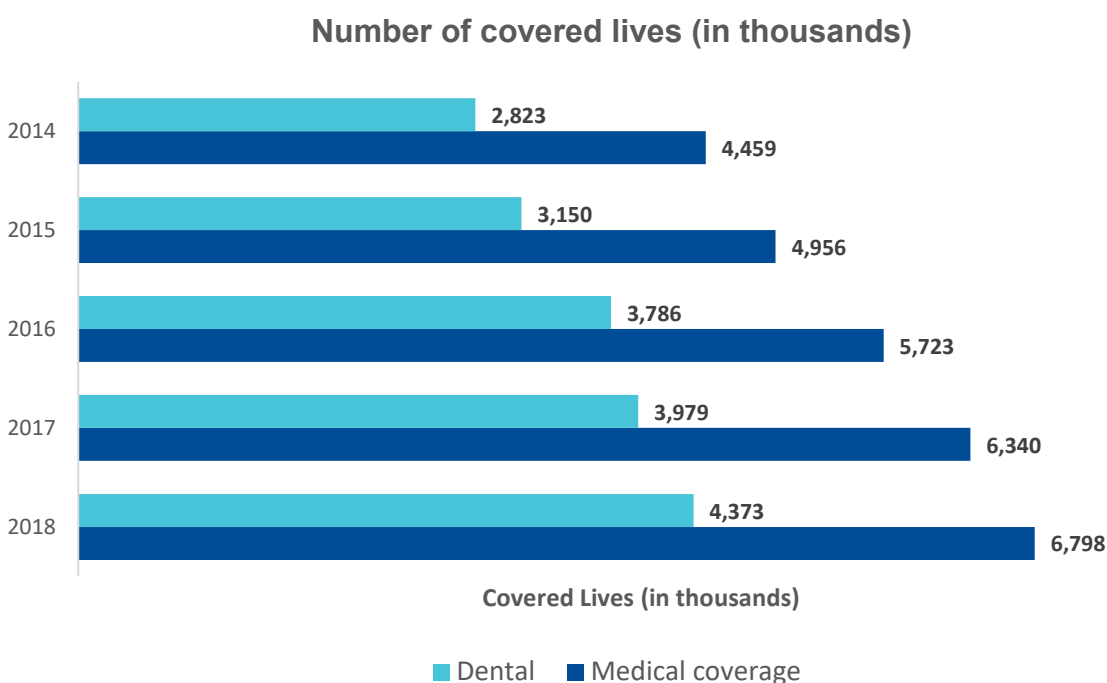
For more information about this report, please contact Thea Mounts (thea.mounts@ofm.wa.gov), Senior Forecasting and Research Manager, Office of Financial Management.

For more information about current operations of the WA-APCD, please contact apcd@hca.wa.gov.
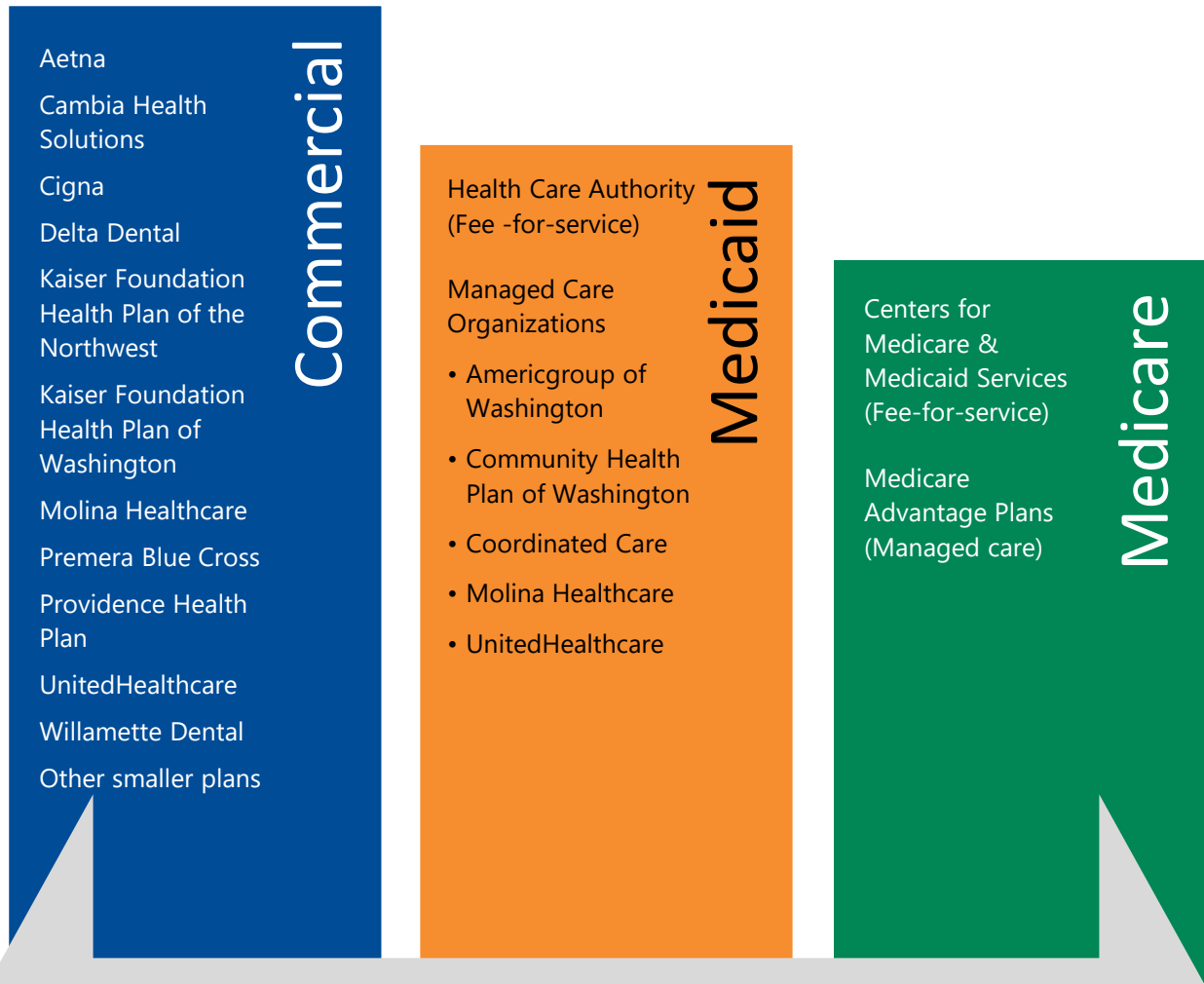
What is in the Washington APCD?

The Washington All-Payer Claims Database (WA-APCD) is the most complete collection of health and dental claims data in the state. In 2014, the Legislature directed the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to create the database to support transparent public reporting of health care information. Launched in 2018, the WA-APCD includes eligibility files and medical, dental, and pharmacy claims as well as workers' compensation claims.

The number of covered lives in the database has increased faster over time than people have gained health insurance coverage in the state. This is a result of efforts by the lead organization to identify and onboard insurance companies covered under the WA-APCD statute.

Number of covered lives (in thousands)

Year	Dental	Medical coverage
2014	2,823	4,459
2015	3,150	4,956
2016	3,786	5,723
2017	3,979	6,340
2018	4,373	6,798

Covered Lives (in thousands)

■ Dental   ■ Medical coverage

Workers' compensation claims (by person, in thousands)

Year	Claims
2014	146
2015	146
2016	145
2017	143
2018	143

Claims (in thousands)

What is the source of the WA-APCD data?

The WA-APCD collects commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare data from over 50 data suppliers.

Commercial

Aetna

Cambia Health Solutions

Cigna

Delta Dental

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington

Molina Healthcare

Premera Blue Cross

Providence Health Plan

UnitedHealthcare

Willamette Dental

Other smaller plans

Medicaid

Health Care Authority (Fee -for-service)

Managed Care Organizations

- Americgroup of Washington
- Community Health Plan of Washington
- Coordinated Care
- Molina Healthcare
- UnitedHealthcare

Medicare

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Fee-for-service)

Medicare Advantage Plans (Managed care)

- More than 50 data suppliers submit eligibility files, medical, dental, and pharmacy claims at each quarterly deadline: Jan. 31, April 30, July 31 and Oct. 31.

- Onpoint Health Data onboards new data suppliers each year.

- The Data Submission Guide is reviewed each year to improve the quality of the data in the WA-APCD.

How secure is the WA-APCD data?

The WA-APCD adheres to all federal privacy laws and maintains the latest data security technology.

Onpoint Health Data, the WA-APCD data vendor, along with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), the WA-APCD lead organization, worked extensively with the Washington Office of Cyber Security (OCS) to ensure compliance and protection of all protected health information within the WA-APCD. Onpoint Health Data meets or exceeds current data security standards (see box).

Onpoint Health Data ensures data security and privacy from the moment claims data are uploaded from each of the data suppliers quarterly into the WA-APCD, while the data is stored, aggregated, and maintained, and when WA-APCD data is reviewed or released to data requestors or end users.

To ensure the security and privacy of the WA-APCD, Onpoint Health Data and Forum One passed the Washington OCS security design review process for:

- **Claims Data Manager** – system for data intake, aggregation, and storage of claims data.

- **Review and Reconsideration Reporting portal** – for providers and practices to verify the data related to quality, utilization, and expenditures measures prior to public release.

- **Analytic Data Enclave** – secure cloud-based platform for data requestors to analyze WA-APCD data sets.

- **Washington HealthCareCompare website** – publicly reported data on health care costs and quality at provider practice, hospital, and statewide levels (www.wahealthcarecompare.com).

WA-APCD data security and privacy:
- Adheres to OCIO Standard No. 141.10 Securing Information Technology Assets
- Passed Washington state OCS security design review
- Maintains data in a SOC-2/SSAE16 certified data center

Onpoint Health Data:
- Maintains HIPAA compliance
- Maintains HITRUST certification
- Follows National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) best practices
- Designed their programs to meet or exceed HITECH breach notification

How is the WA-APCD data available for users?

The WA-APCD purpose is to promote transparent reporting of health care information. This is accomplished through two pathways:

1) Providing data products to researchers and analysts for projects approved by the WA-APCD Data Release Committee

2) Providing quality and cost reporting on the Washington HealthCareCompare website.

What type of data products are available?

There are several data products available for analysts and stakeholders who need a closer look at the data from the WA-APCD:

- **Analytic Claims Files**
  Simplified dataset including a single year of de-identified person-level information about medical services.

- **Public Use Files**
  Three standard datasets with summarized annual data on utilization, diagnosis, and medical services.

- **Data Extracts**
  Stand-alone data file sent through secure file transfer containing limited personal information that allows for some customization based on data requestor needs and approval from the Data Release Committee.

- **Data Enclave**
  Access to a large selection of claims data with limited personal information for multiple years (refreshed quarterly) through a secure, cloud-based platform with access to analytical software.

- **Standard Reports**
  Standard dataset with per person cost and utilization for a calendar year (cannot be customized).

- **Custom Reports**
  For requestors that don't have data analysis resources, Onpoint Health Data can run analyses and produce customized reports based on needs and budget.

RCW 43.371.050 outlines what level of private information from the WA-APCD a requestor can request:

- Researchers with approval from an Institutional Review Board can access *direct patient identifiers* and proprietary financial information.

- Federal, state, tribal, and local agencies can access *indirect patient identifiers* and proprietary financial information.

- Lead Organization (when leading work for the WA-APCD) can access *indirect patient identifiers* and proprietary financial information.

- Lead Organization (when functioning for their own benefit) and all other requestors can access *indirect patient identifiers*.
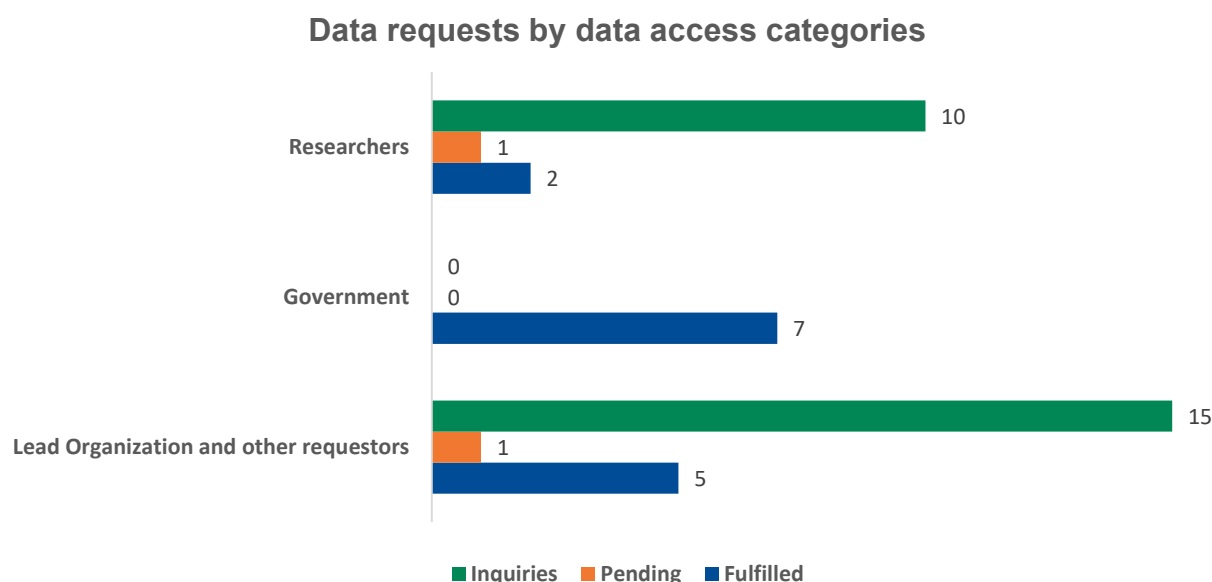
Request WA-APCD data through the Washington HealthCareCompare.com website:
https://www.wahealthcarecompare.com/wa-apcd-data-requests

Who has requested data from the WA-APCD?

Transparency of the health care system is imperative to reining in costs and understanding areas for improvement. Providing access to WA-APCD data for researchers, government agencies, and key stakeholders is critical to achieving transparency.

Since 2018, WA-APCD data has been available by request. A number of types of organizations including state and local government agencies, health systems, and university researchers have requested a variety of data products. Most government agencies have requested access to the WA-APCD data enclave to conduct research and analyses focused on improving care to Washington residents.

About 41 data requests have been received through the end of 2019:

Data requests by data access categories

Researchers
- Inquiries: 10
- Pending: 1
- Fulfilled: 2

Government
- Inquiries: 0
- Pending: 0
- Fulfilled: 7

Lead Organization and other requestors
- Inquiries: 15
- Pending: 1
- Fulfilled: 5

■ Inquiries ■ Pending ■ Fulfilled

Government Agencies with Access to the WA-APCD Data Enclave

Office of Financial Management

Department of Health

Department of Labor and Industries

Washington Health Benefits Exchange

Health Care Authority

Office of the Insurance Commissioner

Public Health Seattle & King County

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What are requesters doing with the data from the WA-APCD?

Requesters have submitted applications for a wide variety of uses. The requests fulfilled to date are only beginning to scratch the surface of the uses of the WA-APCD data. The following are examples of how state agencies have used the data.

Reports to the Legislature and to answer legislative requests:
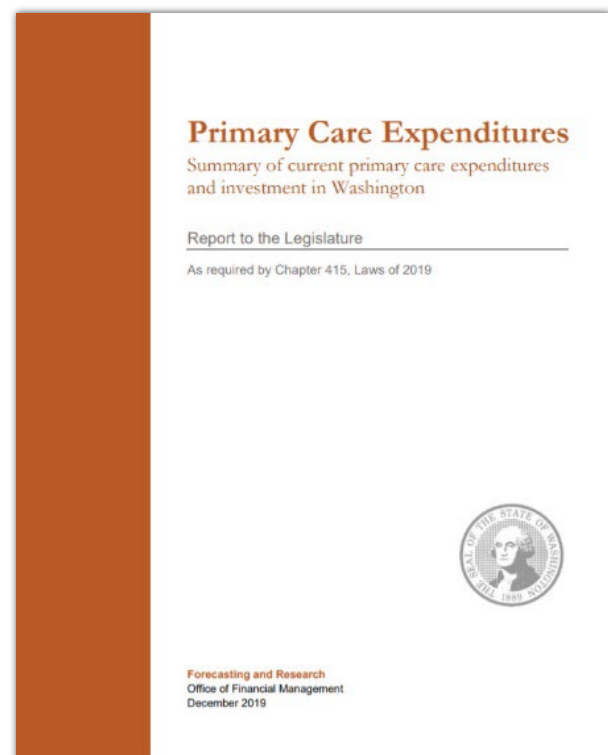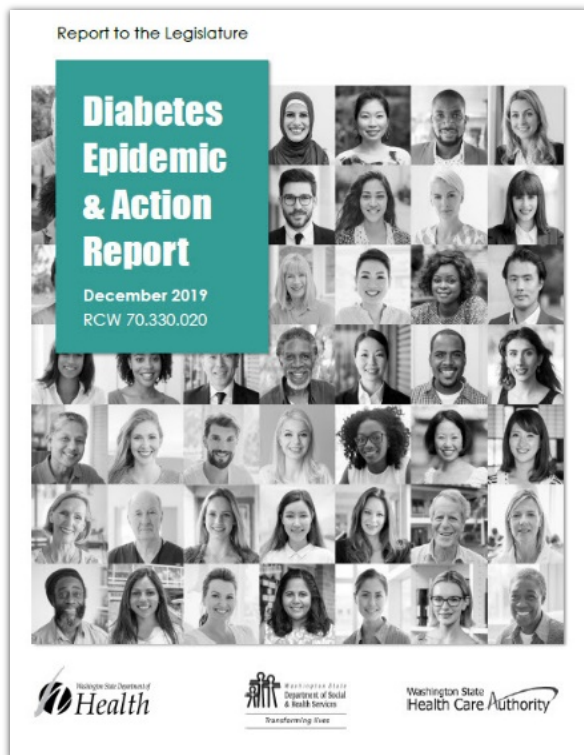
- Understanding the cost of insulin and trends in insulin costs across time
- Comparing health care costs for persons of diabetes to those without (from the Diabetes Epidemic Action Report - page 10)
- Calculating costs of primary care expenditures in Washington

To implement laws:

- Creating the database required in the Balance Billing Protection Act[1]

1. ED Statewide Professional						
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Procedure Code	Description	Procedure Modifier (26 or Other)	In Network/Out of Network	Number of Claims	Median Charges	Median Allowed
99282	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT LOW/MODER SEVERITY	Other	In Network	2,903	$129	$58
99282	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT LOW/MODER SEVERITY	Other	Out of Network	59	$227	$59
99283	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT MODERATE SEVERITY	Other	In Network	19,006	$295	$104
99283	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT MODERATE SEVERITY	Other	Out of Network	563	$394	$88
99284	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT HIGH/URGENT SEVERITY	Other	In Network	29,445	$508	$214
99284	EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISIT HIGH/URGENT SEVERITY	Other	Out of Network	1,095	$613	$167
99285	EMERGENCY DEPT VISIT HIGH SEVERITY&THREAT FUNCJ	Other	In Network	32,618	$908	$326
99285	EMERGENCY DEPT VISIT HIGH SEVERITY&THREAT FUNCJ	Other	Out of Network	1,742	$968	$245

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[1] https://www.insurance.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/surprise-billing-data-set_1.xlsx

To report on cost and quality of medical procedures:

- Calculating clinic visit costs by county and procedures

- Estimating C-section rate and variation in costs in delivery options across Washington

- Estimating hip replacement and knee replacement costs

- Estimating total cost of care by legislative districts
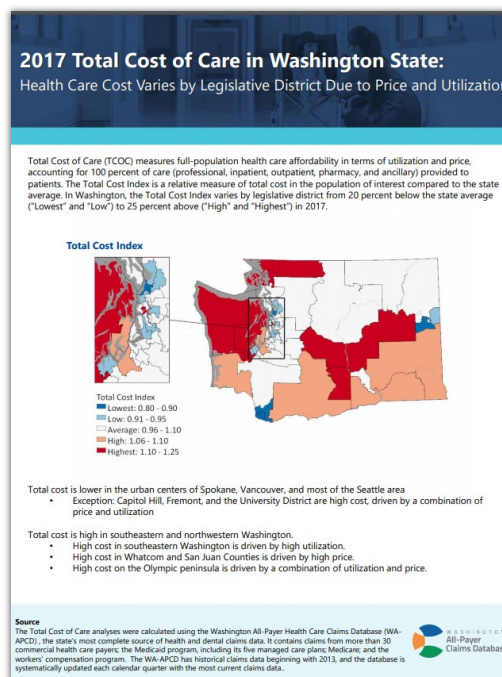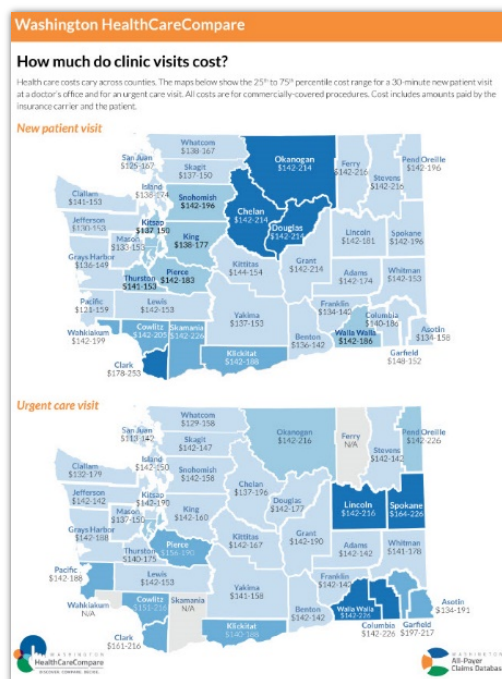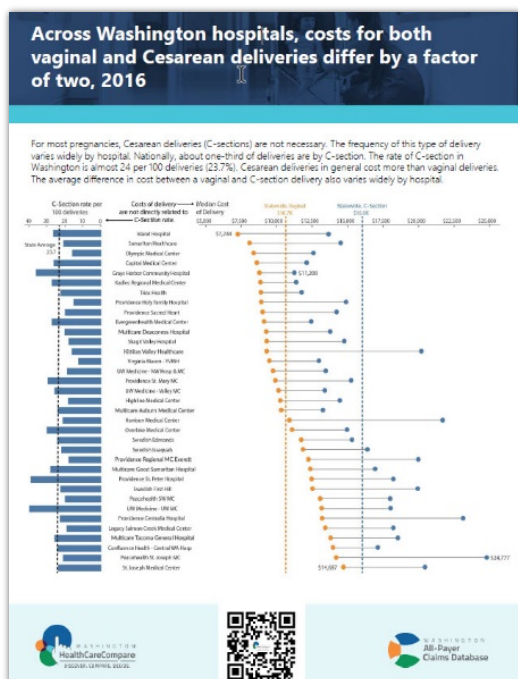
To provide analyses for statewide initiatives:

- Compare the rate of opioid and benzodiazepine use by legislative district and over time
- Estimate rates of prescriptions for high dose opioids
- Understand who is obtaining opioids from multiple providers

Figure 1. Opioids at High Dose by Legislative District in Washington State, 2017

Percent
- 1.1-1.7
- 1.8-2.2
- 2.3-2.8
- 2.9-3.3
- 3.4-4.0
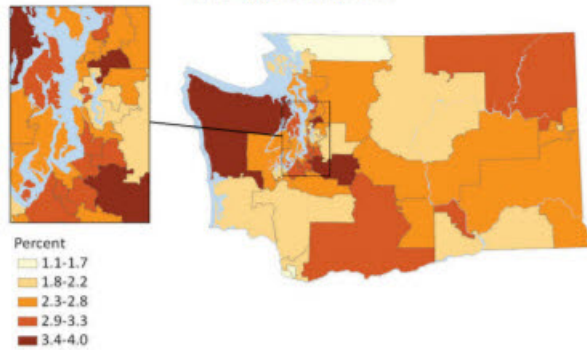
Figure 2. Opioids from Multiple Providers by Legislative District in Washington State, 2017

Percent
- 2.1-3.1
- 3.1-4.2
- 4.3-5.2
- 5.3-6.3
- 6.3-7.4
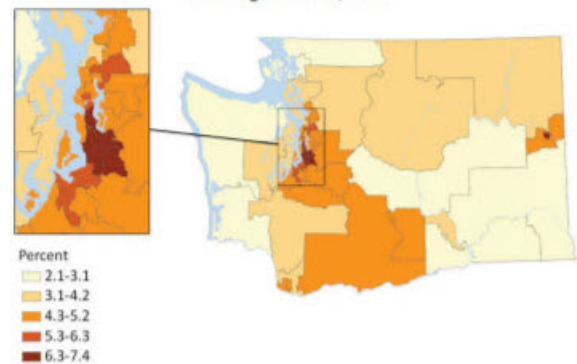
Figure 3. Concurrent Opioids and Benzodiazepines by Legislative District in Washington State, 2017

Percent
- 9.9-11.5
- 11.6-13.0
- 13.1-14.6
- 14.7-16.1
- 16.2-17.8
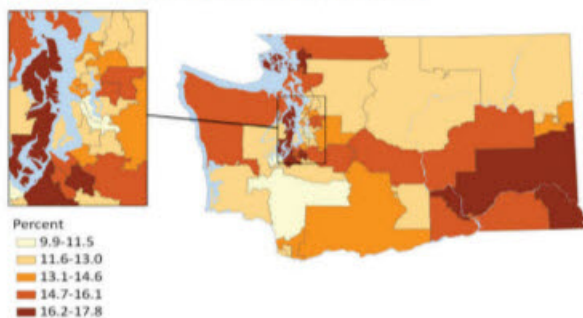
To highlight public health topics using health care data:

- Understanding rates of long-active reversible contraception across the state
- Estimating provider availability by market segment
- Rates of chronic conditions
- Dental utilization

Lead Organization (OHSU) uses of the WA-APCD data under contract with OFM *in its role leading the WA-APCD*:

- Creation of star rating for provider practices for display on the Washington HealthCareCompare.com website
- Data validation
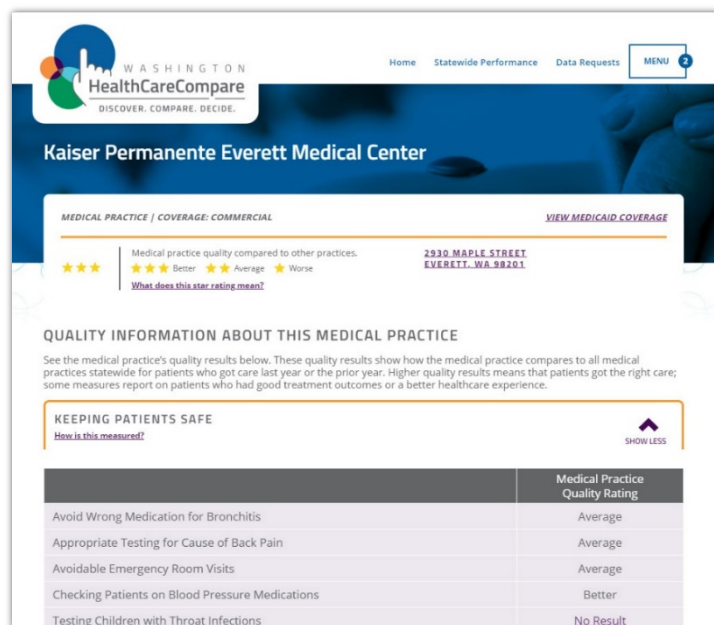
Lead Organization (OHSU) uses of the WA-APCD data *outside of role of leading the WA-APCD*:

- External evaluation of Washington Medicaid Transformation Project using provider data from the WA-APCD to conduct surveys
- Data request for this project was submitted to Data Release Advisory Committee and posted online (https://www.wahealthcarecompare.com/past-requests?page=0)
- **There was no resale of the data**

Other stakeholders using WA-APCD data:

Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA)
Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute
Providence Center for Outcomes Research and Education (CORE)

What is the Washington HealthCareCompare (WHCC) website?

The Washington HealthCareCompare website (www.wahealthcarecompare.com) uses data from the WA-APCD to calculate the median price of over 100 shoppable medical procedures, hospital and medical practice quality scores, and results for the Washington State Common Measure Set. In December 2019, the WHCC website was updated to include 2018 data.

In 2018, the National Association of Health Data Organizations honored the WHCC website and the commitment of Washington state to bring greater transparency to heath care costs in the state by giving residents tools to make data-driven, informed health care decisions (https://www.nahdo.org/sites/default/files/WA%20HealthCareCompare%20flyer.pdf).

Home page for the WHCC website:

WA-APCD Budget overview

Funding to implement and for ongoing operations and maintenance of the WA-APCD were primarily from federal sources. To date, just over 10% of the funding has come from the state budget.

Expenditures for the Implementation and Operations & Maintenance of the WA-APCD by Source (Federal Fiscal Years 2017-2020)

Federal
$6,904,797
89%

State
$876,478
11%
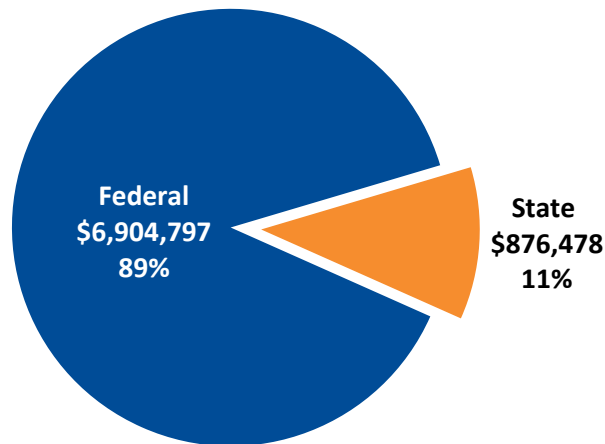
Expenditures for the Implementation and Operations & Maintenance of the WA-APCD by Federal Fiscal Year

- FFY17: $2,625,053
- FFY18: $2,868,450
- FFY 19: $1,573,012
- FFY 20 (Partial year): $714,760

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Key WA-APCD Milestones

House Bill 2572 signed 4/2014

Senate Bill 5084 signed 5/2015

OFM signed contract with OHSU 10/2016

WA-APCD Data Policy Committee and Data Release Committee Established 4/2017

First data submissions 5/2017

WHCC website and data release program launched 6/2018

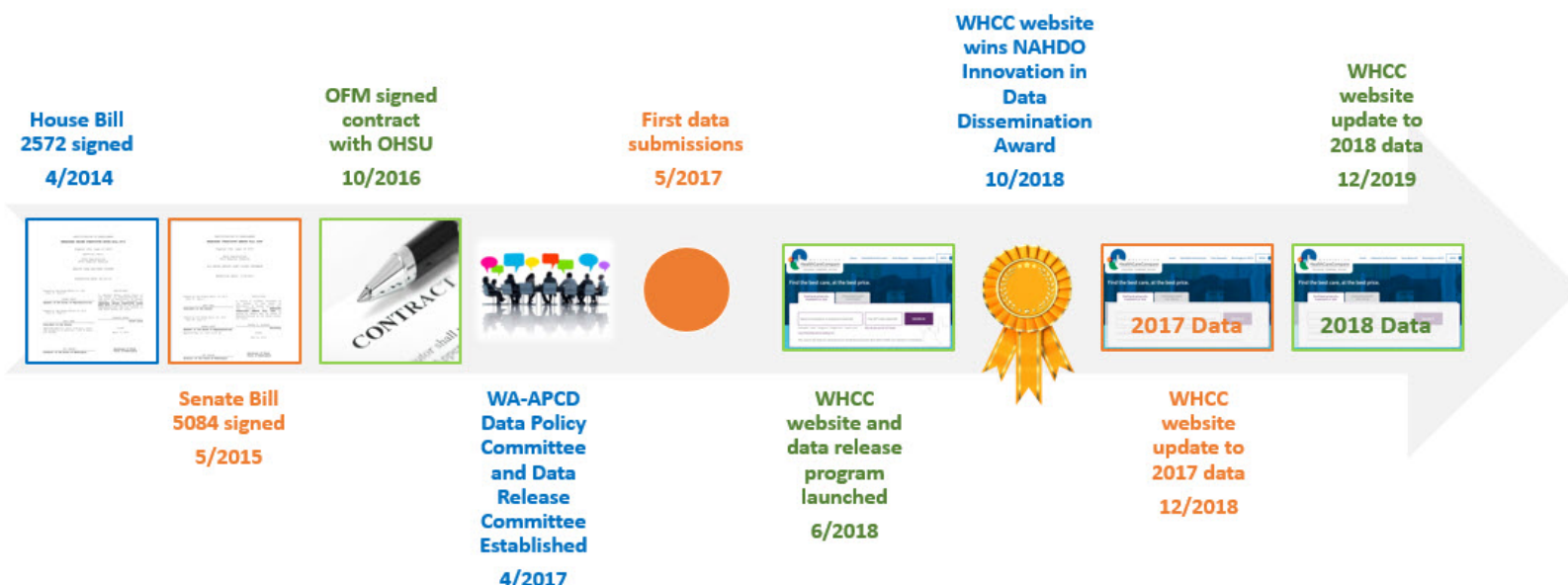**WHCC website wins NAHDO Innovation in Data Dissemination Award** 10/2018

WHCC website update to 2017 data 12/2018

WHCC website update to 2018 data 12/2019

Summary of key WA-APCD Milestones:

1. The Washington Legislature directed the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to create the Washington All-Payer Health Care Claims Database (WA-APCD).

2. **OFM** oversaw the creation and management of the WA-APCD through the lead organization – Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and the data vendor – Onpoint Health Data.

3. **The** WA-APCD Data Policy and Data Release Committees were established and helped create guidelines around the development of the WA-APCD including data release processes.

4. **Over** 50 data submitters began the data submission process of medical, pharmacy, and dental claims along with eligibility files.

5. **The** Washington HealthCareCompare.com (WHCC) website and data products launched providing consumers with costs of over 100 shoppable medical procedures, hospital and medical practice quality scores, and results for the Washington State Common Measure Set.

6. **The** National Association of Health Data Organizations awards the WHCC website the Innovation in Data Dissemination award that recognizes outstanding organizations that effectively communicate health data to the public.

7. **The** WHCC website is updated yearly since its release with the most up-to-date information from the WA-APCD on health care costs and quality.

> **Speed and efficiency:**
> - Database established in under a year including creation of data submission guide, stakeholder input, onboarding sessions and first submission completed.
> - Website and data products established in under 18 months including establishment of all committees, website development and creation of standard data products.
> - Project came in on budget.

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WA-APCD TEAM:

Office of Financial Management: oversaw the development and launch of the WA-APCD, lead rule-making activities, and provided guidance to the lead organization. Effective January 1, 2020, oversight of the WA-APCD moved to the Health Care Authority.

Oregon Health and Science University, Center for Health Systems Effectiveness: as the lead organization for the WA-APCD, maintained daily operations and management including contract management, overseeing data submissions, processing data requests, running data quality analysis, managing data policy and data release committees. The lead organization also developed the quality metrics for clinics used on the WHCC website.

Experience: OHSU, Center for Health Systems Effectiveness

- A leader in finding better ways to deliver health care through the effective use of data.
- Uses econometric and advanced analytic methods and large data sets, most prominently claims, to answer important health care delivery questions.
- HITRUST certified, HIPAA compliant, QECP security compliant

Onpoint Health Data: as the data vendor for the WA-APCD, helped data submitters complete quarterly data submissions, verified accuracy of data submissions, created data metrics for the Common Measure Set, managed online portal for physicians and clinics to review calculated metrics and claims attributed to their practices, managed the online portal for data requestors to access WA-APCD datasets, and worked with the lead organization to create custom data products.

Experience: Onpoint Health Data

- Over four decades of experience designing, constructing, managing, and analyzing a wide array of health care databases.
- Developed more than half of the All-Payer Claims Databases in the nation.
- HITRUST certified, HIPAA compliant, QECP security compliant

Forum One: as the Washington HealthCareCompare.com (WHCC) website developer, developed the theming and logos for the WA-APCD and the WHCC website. Forum One manages the website and works with OHSU and Onpoint Health Data to update metrics with annual data from the WA-APCD.

Experience: Forum One

- Founded in 1996 to assist nonprofit organizations and government to make an impact through digital experiences.
- Has completed more than 2,500 projects for 1,000 customers.
- Customers include Association of American Medical Colleges, World Wildlife Fund, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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